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9 A.M. TO 11 P.M.



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PAGE 10

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Edmonton Police constables Curtis Mason and Sam Sanson are part of the Community Action Team (C.A.T.) deployment, which is focusing on transit this month. The officers patrolled Churchill station on Wednesday afternoon. STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

Edmonton transit sees increase in property crimes

More than 200 this year.
ETS attributes uptick to
improved reportage



STEPHANIE
DUBOIS

stephanie.dubois@metronews.ca

Police are patrolling Edmonton transit this week as property crimes are on the rise in the public transportation system.

According to City of Edmonton transportation officials, over a five-year period, property crimes in the Edmonton Transit System (ETS) increased from 155 reports in 2009 to more than 200 crimes reported so far this year.

Edmonton Transit spokesperson Patricia Dickson attributes the slight increase to peace officers now including shelter damage and graffiti in their crime figures and to more offi-

cers present on the system.

"In 2009, we had 48 peace officers, today we have 61. As a result, they're investigating and reporting more incidents. They also have refined and defined the reporting process for incidences so there's a better reporting process," she said.

Edmonton Police's Community Action Team (C.A.T.) deployment will be focusing on increased presence in Edmonton transit this week, specifically watching for the "three P's," which are platforms, pedways and parking lots in transit

areas. Police are also working with individuals from local organizations to help homeless individuals in the system get better shelter.

"Especially with the cold right now, we'll find people who are sleeping or just trying to get out of the cold," said Clair Seyler, spokesperson for EPS.

Crimes against people over the last five years have dropped slightly in Edmonton transit, with 335 cases reported dropping to 323 this year, according to city officials.

A spokesperson for the Transit Riders' Union of Edmonton said the recent statistics aren't surprising.

"As far as I am aware, the ridership numbers are constantly going up with ETS. The more people you have on the system, the more eyes there are, the more safety there is," said Brendon Van Alstine, spokesperson for the group.

Decrease in other crimes

"The more people you have on the system, the more eyes there are, the more safety there is."

Transit Riders' Union of Edmonton
spokesperson Brendon Van Alstine



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Transit

Council pushes again for LRT funds

City councillors sent a strong message Monday that Edmonton's top priority is the city's LRT network, but the provincial government responded clearly there's no new money coming anytime soon.

Mayor Don Iveson proposed the motion outlining LRT expansion as the city's top priority. He said voters made it clear to him they don't want to see the South East LRT delayed.

"That's unacceptable to our citizens and that's why it's unacceptable to me," he said.

Parker Hogan, a spokesperson for the minister of transportation, said there will be no new money until at least the spring budget, but said the city has existing grant programs that could help.

"If LRT is a priority I'm sure the city will find a way to fund it, but now they seem to be putting their money in other things, like arenas," he said.

The \$1.8 billion project has \$800 million from the city and an additional \$250 million from the federal government. The city also assuming it will get \$235 million from the provincial GreenTrip fund, but will still be \$515 million short.

Iveson said he wants it to be crystal clear what the city needs.

"I want to eliminate ambiguity about what our highest priority is," he said.

Hogan said ambiguity about the city's wants has not been the issue to date.

"The former mayor and council also made it clear to this government that they wanted the funding."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Artist creates unique logos for city neighbourhoods

Project. Jaime Calayo has created logos for 124 areas in the city

It all started with Oliver.

That's how local designer Jaime Calayo described an ongoing project to create unique and one-of-a-kind logos for different neighbourhoods throughout Edmonton.

"It started with me just trying to create one for Oliver, just for fun, to see if I could do it," Calayo explained. "Then I started branching out to all the other neighbourhoods and then I started to make it into a larger project and started contacting community leagues themselves."

As the project expanded, Calayo used information gathered through personal research and reaching out to community leagues to shape the distinct designs for the city's communities.

"It was something I would do when I had down time or a quiet afternoon," said Calayo, who started the project in August.

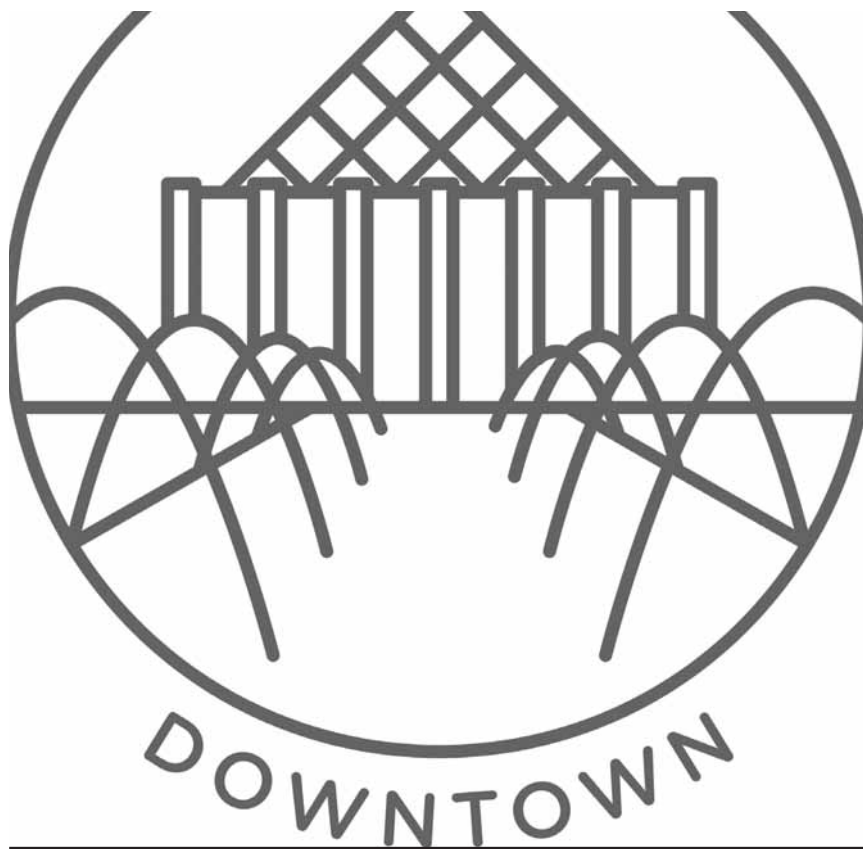
"I had one rule: I couldn't design the emblems myself, it had to be through additional research, a book or by talking to someone from that community."

"I just didn't want to speak for any community myself," he added.

While Calayo created logos for 124 neighbourhoods, the project is ongoing.

"I found the older communities, with a lot of history, there was a lot to dive into," he said.

Residents can purchase



Edmonton graphic designer Jaime Calayo created this original design to represent downtown Edmonton as part of a project to create logos for the city's different neighbourhoods. CONTRIBUTED

At a glance

- Residents can purchase a poster with the different logos online at where-wearefrom.com.
- There are 386 neighbour-

hoods in Edmonton.

- Calayo plans to release a new poster next year with additional neighbourhoods.

"Anything that showcases community leagues is im-

portant," she added.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

1 NEWS

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Alta. superintendents' wages outpace those of bigger boards

Overpriced or fair wage? Three major metro boards offer more than \$300K annually to top execs



JEREMY NOLAÏS
Metro in Calgary

Alberta's metro school board superintendents are being paid more handsomely than their peers running larger organizations out east, reveals a Metro analysis.

Financial statements for 2012-13 released for Edmonton Catholic School District reveal superintendent Joan Carr took home more than \$328,000, while being responsible for approximately 35,000 students.

In Calgary, financial statements indicate Calgary Catholic School District's top official Gary Strother netted nearly \$276,000 while overseeing an organization responsible for

49,000 students, while Calgary Board of Education Chief Supt. Naomi Johnson just received a \$364,076 paycheck following her resignation, very likely the largest payout for a top school board official in Canada.

When each superintendents' earnings were divided against the number of kids they were responsible for, it revealed that the CBE's top official was only paid about \$3.40 per student, while Strother earned \$5.63 and Carr pulled in \$9.23.

Johnson, Carr and Schmidt all earned more than the top officials with Canada's three largest school boards in terms of students — all are in Ontario. Donna Quan, head of the Toronto District School Board,

Supt. Edgar Schmidt

\$327K

Edmonton Public Schools has not yet made its 2012-13 financials public, but former Supt. Edgar Schmidt earned \$326,698 in 2011-12.

earned about \$300,000, or about \$1.17 per student.

The CBE is the fourth-largest board in Canada.

Jim Gibbons, a senior adviser who helps in the recruiting of superintendents on behalf of the Alberta School Boards Association, said he suspects the discrepancy between Alberta and Ontario education executives is based on economies — and western businesspeople currently have the upper hand.

But Derek Fildebrandt, Alberta director with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, said the data comparison could suggest Albert executives are being overpaid.

"How we determine what to pay them is always difficult, but should be relatively competitive with other jurisdictions," he said.

"If we're paying significantly more than major jurisdictions that are responsible for more students, it would be an indication that we are being more than competitive."

WITH FILES FROM LEAH GERMAIN/METRO



Last year Joan Carr, superintendent of the Edmonton Catholic School Board, took home approximately \$328,000. METRO FILE

New Year's resolution?

EPS looking to expand social media presence

Edmonton Police are looking to expand their social media presence in 2014, with the possible addition of Instagram and Flickr, EPS officials said Wednesday.

As first reported by Metro, Edmonton Police launched their Pinterest account Wednesday, with plans to use the social media sharing site to return stolen items to their rightful owners as part of their overall social media plan.

"Pinterest was the next stage. We are looking at integrating more social media into our websites," said Carolin Maran, EPS Web and social media coordinator.

The now active EPS Pinterest site will be uploaded with "unique" items found through police investigations, explained Scott Pattison, EPS Corporate Communications Advisor.

"We hope to provide another option to members of the public to go online at their convenience and possibly spot items that were theirs," he said.

Police have uploaded items from a recent seizure of taxidermy items and other different objects seized during the investigation.

Officers will post photos, which will have an email (EPSpinterest@edmonton-police.ca) for individuals wanting to claim items to show proof and inquire about objects that might belong to them.

The Edmonton Police Service Pinterest account can be found at pinterest.com/edmontonpolice.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

Gun Sculpture to go on final tour in 2014



The Gun Sculpture
STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

A local art piece featuring decommissioned guns will soon be leaving Edmonton and travelling the world in 2014.

It's still the early planning stages for the five-tonne cube Gun Sculpture but co-artist Sandra Bromley emphasizes interest has been expressed.

"We know there's interest but our plan is to do it more structured and organized this time," she said.

The sculpture has been to three continents prior but following this tour, the art piece will be stationed somewhere permanently after the tour finishes — not necessarily in Edmonton. It's currently on display in the Prince of Wales Armoury.

The exhibit has three components: The sculpture featuring 7,000 deactivated crime and military weapons donated

That's a lot of guns

7,000

The Gun Sculpture features 7,000 deactivated crime and military weapons from around the world.


from around the world; a large mural with photos of 114 victims and survivors of violence

from around the globe; and a whiteboard for visitors of the sculpture to write a message.

Bromley said in previous tours, the art sculpture became a discussion piece for so many locally and internationally.

"It has the universal theme of peace and that theme embedded itself in whatever culture it was," said Bromley.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO




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New study. Looking into alternative pain relief



The Stollery Children's Hospital has launched a new study to determine how effective alternative therapies are in reducing patient pain. METRO FILE

Edmonton's Stollery Children's Hospital is looking into different ways to provide pain relief to sick kids.

As part of a special trial study, the hospital is currently offering massage therapy, acupuncture, acupressure and Reiki to different patients suffering from severe pain due to their illness.

The Pediatric Integrative Medicine Trial works to determine the effectiveness and usefulness of different forms of non-medicated pain relief.

"This kind of work has never been done in a children's hospital anywhere in the world, to our knowledge," said Dr. Sunita Vohra, the study's

lead researcher. "Even though we have the very best care to offer, we still want to do more. It's that desire that motivates me and our team."

Through offering alternative pain-relief methods, doctors said they are hoping to provide patients with alternatives to medication that will not make them drowsy or give them anxiety.

"When my leg's in very bad pain, it's very helpful," said 12-year-old Garret McComber, who is currently participating in the study. McComber is currently battling acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a cancer of the white blood cells.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

Retirement home theft

Suspect arrested

Edmonton police have nabbed a suspect believed to be involved in a number of robberies that targeted seniors living in retirement homes. Preston Lee Carpenter, 29, has been arrested for allegedly impersonating both a family member of an elderly resident at a retirement home as well as a repair man, to steal belongings from occupants' rooms. METRO

Two people killed

Armoured car involved in crash

One of two people killed on an icy highway in northern Alberta was an armoured-car guard. A G4S armoured vehicle collided head-on with a pickup truck Tuesday on Highway 63 while on a routine trip between Edmonton and Fort McMurray. The driver of the pickup was also killed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Both Edmonton's public and Catholic school boards are reporting positive improvements for its First Nations results. METRO FILE

Results in for First Nations students

Signs of success.

Edmonton's Catholic and public schools are reporting a decrease in the drop-out rate for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students

LEAH GERMAIN

leah.germain@metronews.ca

Aboriginal students in Edmonton's Catholic and public schools are dropping out at lower rates than ever before, according to new numbers.

"We are having more students complete (high school) and fewer students dropping

out," said Eileen Marthiensen, program co-ordinator. EPSB reported a decrease in aboriginal students' drop-out rate, from 11.8 per cent over a three-year average to 9.4 per cent in 2013.

"We have a large number of students overall," she added. "We have over 7,600 students that self-identify as First Nations, Métis and Inuit within our district. With a larger population, you are going to have numbers more like this. I think our numbers are somewhat on par with the province."

While the district also saw an improvement in the rate of high-school completion from 26.2 per cent over the last three-year average to 30.3 per cent in 2013, there was a decline in the rate which stu-

Aboriginal population

52,105

Number of people in Edmonton who identify as an aboriginal according to a 2006 census.

dents transition from high school to work from 24.5 per cent over three years to 23.7 per cent in 2013.

"I would say we are improving (but) we are not there yet," Marthiensen said. "We are certainly moving towards reducing the achievement gap."

Edmonton Catholic schools said they also saw positive growth for aboriginal students in 2013, with a high-school completion rate of 48.8 per cent in 2013, up from 29.8 over

the last three years.

"We are very excited about the work we do in the district," said Joe Naccarato, assistant superintendent for ECSB.

With 2,945 self-identified students in the district, Naccarato said the ECSB has focused on retention and sharing information with aboriginal students.

Manager for the Aboriginal Education Centre at MacEwan University Kathy Davis echoed both school boards' comments.

"I think both Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic are doing very well in not only transitioning their students from junior high to senior high, they are doing really well for transitioning their high-school students to come into post-secondary."



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Need a Christmas miracle. Charity falling far behind \$1.8-million donation goal

The Christmas Bureau of Edmonton is suffering from a severe donation shortage this holiday season and is currently only at 26 per cent of its \$1.8-million donation goal.

"Donor fatigue" may be to blame for lower-than-average donations, according to campaign director Darlene Kowalchuk.

Bureau staff say their shortage will affect 46,500 people unless Edmontonians can show their support. The goal of the Bureau is to provide meals to 62,000 Edmontonians this holiday season.

Donations were slightly higher this time last year, Kowalchuk said.

The non-profit's clients range in age and need, but

Network

The Christmas Bureau of Edmonton is a connector to over 100 social-service agencies.

Tough times

"Our donors are giving but not as much because of everything that has been happening in the world this little while."

Christmas Bureau of Edmonton campaign director Darlene Kowalchuk

recently there has been an increase in the number of families with parents earning minimum wage, leaving them only enough money for the bare necessities.

The Christmas Bureau has been providing individuals and families with monetary donations since 1940.

Donations can be made online at ChristmasBureau.ca or at any Edmonton fire station, ATB branch or Servus Credit Union branch.

Donations can also be made at their Bonnie Doon, Commerce Place, Kingsway and Southgate locations.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

Light the Bridge will go ahead without city funds

High Level Bridge.
Strong fundraising has put group within \$200,000 of their goal



RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Even without financial help from the city, the High Level Bridge should be bathed in light by Canada Day 2014.

While they initially came to council Wednesday looking for \$250,000 to backstop the project, the Light the

All the way

"We just have to talk to Edmontonians to get us over the finish line for the next \$200,000."

Dave Mowat, Light the Bridge project leader

Bridge group announced at the start of the meeting that stronger fundraising meant they no longer needed the funds.

Dave Mowat, who has spearheaded the project, told councillors they have raised \$2.3 million toward a total cost of \$2.5 million and feel that even if their fundraising stops today they can go ahead.

"That will do the project, with the exception of 205 feet of lighting just across the top," he said.

He said the 205 feet would be along the top edge of the bridge on the south end, but he's confident Edmontonians will step forward with the missing funds. He said the contract with the light supplier would include an option for \$200,000 more in lights.

"We just have to talk to Edmontonians to get us over the finish line for the next \$200,000," he said.

The city will manage the



A conceptual image of the High Level Bridge. COURTESY LIGHTTHEBRIDGE.CA

project, and councillors voted unanimously to move it forward.

Mayor Don Iveson said he's confident the group will

raise the missing funds.

"I think you will raise the \$2.5 million. I think Edmontonians are going to want the whole bridge lit," he said.

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Busted. Man running 'revenge porn' website charged with extortion

A San Diego man was charged Tuesday with operating a website that let people anonymously post explicit photographs of others so that he could extort hundreds of dollars from the victims.

Kevin Christopher Bollaert, 27, was arrested by California Department of Justice agents on 31 felony counts of conspiracy, identity theft and extortion.

Bollaert created the "revenge porn" website ugotposted.com a year ago, according to court documents. The site let users anonymously post more than 10,000 nude and explicit photographs of others without their permission.

Unlike other such sites,

ugotposted.com required that the victim be identified by name, age and other information, leading to the identity theft allegations.

Documents say Bollaert charged victims a fee ranging from \$249.99 to \$350 to remove the images, using emails sent through a second website, changemyreputation.com.

The department said records from his changemyreputation.com PayPal account show that he received tens of thousands of dollars.

Both websites were inactive as of Tuesday and Bollaert's attorney did not return a telephone message seeking comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa. Suspended senator denied press pass on Parliament Hill

The parliamentary press gallery has denied suspended senator Patrick Brazeau's bid for accreditation as a freelance reporter for Halifax-based Frank Magazine.

Press gallery president Daniel Thibeault said Brazeau wasn't eligible for membership because he's still a senator.

"So we feel as an executive that it's incompatible. You can't be a senator and a member of

the press gallery at the same time," Thibeault said.

The Halifax edition of Frank — not to be confused with another publication in Ottawa with the same name — said the senator would be a "pain in the arse" to his former Senate colleagues, who suspended Brazeau and fellow ex-Conservative caucus members over their questionable expense claims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Interpreter at Mandela memorial was a fraud

Say what? Advocates for the deaf say sign-language interpreter was a faker who just waved his arms around meaninglessly

As one world leader after another took the stage in a gigantic soccer stadium to pay homage to Nelson Mandela in Soweto, South Africa, the man at arm's reach from them appeared to be interpreting for the deaf at the hours-long memorial.

The unidentified man, who stood about one metre from U.S. President Barack Obama and other leaders, "was moving his hands around but there was no meaning in what he used his hands for," Bruno Druchen, the Deaf Federation of South Africa's national director, said.

When South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa told the crowd that former South African President F.W. de Klerk was among the guests in a VIP section, the man at his side used a strange pushing motion unknown in sign language that did not identify de Klerk or say anything about his presence in the stadium, said Ingrid Parkin, principal of the St. Vincent School for the Deaf in Johannesburg.

The closest the man's gestures at that point came to



U.S. President Barack Obama stands next to a fake sign-language interpreter as he makes his speech at the memorial service for Nelson Mandela at the FNB Stadium in Soweto near Johannesburg on Tuesday. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

anything in sign language might possibly be the words for "running horse," "friend" or "beyond," she said, but only by someone who signs terribly. The man also used virtually no facial expressions to convey the often emotional speeches of the leader, an absolute must for sign language interpreters, Parkin said.

Collins Chabane, one of South Africa's two presidency ministers, told reporters the government is investigating "alleged incorrect use of sign language at the National Memorial Service" and did not identify the man but added the

"government will report publicly on any information it may establish."

Outraged deaf people and sign language interpreters from Canada to China have complained about the man, Parkin said. "This man himself knows he cannot sign and he had the guts to stand on an international stage and do that," Parkin said. "It's absolutely impossible that he is any kind of interpreter. Or a language person at all, because he's not even using a language there."

The allegation of the use of a bogus sign interpreter was yet another example of bad or-

ganization at the service Tuesday. Other problems included breakdowns in public transportation that hindered mourners from getting to the soccer stadium and a faulty audio system that made the remarks of world leaders inaudible for many.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Repeat offender

The man also did sign interpretation at an event last year that was attended by South African President Jacob Zuma.

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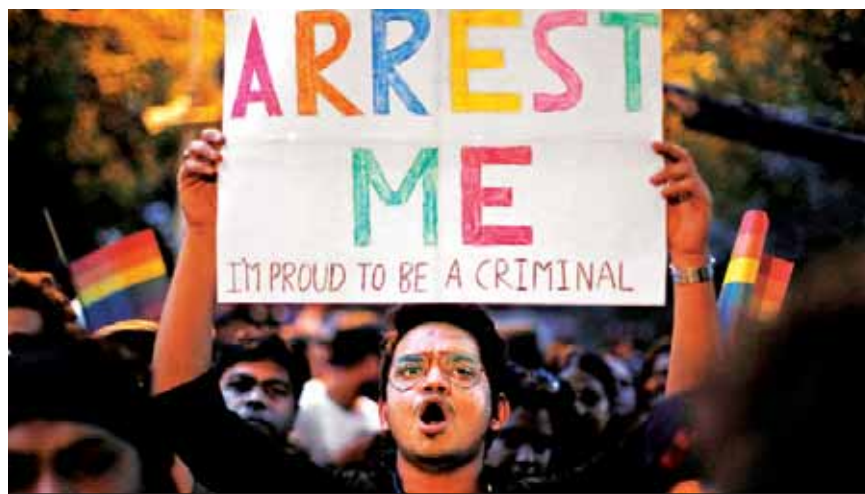
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An Indian gay rights activist holds up a placard during a protest Wednesday in New Delhi. The Supreme Court threw out a 2009 High Court decision to decriminalize homosexuality, dealing a blow to gay activists who have argued for years for the chance to live openly in India's deeply conservative society. ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India's top court says being gay is criminal

1860s law. Country among 70 others that criminalize homosexual relations, according to human rights groups

Encourages 'discrimination'

"We cannot be forced back into the closet. We are not backing off from our fight against discrimination."

Gautam Bhan, an activist who had petitioned the court

India's Supreme Court struck down a 2009 lower court decision to decriminalize homosexual conduct, dealing a blow Wednesday to gay activists who have fought for years for the chance to live openly in India's deeply conservative society.

The judges said only lawmakers and not the courts could change a colonial-era

law that bans homosexual acts and makes them punishable by up to a decade in prison.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community across India reacted to the surprise decision with defiance.

After the ruling, dozens of activists outside the court began crying and hugging

each other in consolation.

"This is a very sad day for us, we are back to square one in our fight for the democratic rights of the gay community," said Ashok Row Kavi of the activist group Humsafar Trust.

Lawyers and supporters of gays, lesbians and transsexuals vowed to continue pressing for the removal of the law, which they say encourages discrimination, even if it is rarely invoked by prosecutors.

"We feel very let down," said lawyer Anand Grover, who had argued the case on behalf of the advocacy group NAZ Foundation. "But our fight is not over and we will continue to fight for the constitutional right."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather worry. Syrian refugees hit by storm in Lebanon



A Syrian refugee boy stands outside his tent as heavy snow covers the region, in a camp for Syrians who fled their country's civil war, in the Bekaa valley, Lebanon, on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A blustery storm dropped torrential rain and snow on Lebanon and Jordan on Wednesday, forcing aid agencies to scramble to distribute desperately needed winter supplies like blankets and plastic tarps to Syrian refugees who have sought safe haven in the countries.

The storm, dubbed Alexa, pushed temperatures below freezing in northern Lebanon and some areas of the Bekaa Valley, which is dotted with informal refugee settlements. The

winter weather heaped another layer of misery on the already grim existence of many of the estimated 1.4 million Syrians in Lebanon who fled the civil war raging in their homeland.

Since the Syrian conflict began in March 2011, more than 2 million Syrians have fled the violence in their homeland to neighbouring countries like Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. Many will spend the winter in flimsy tents with often only a plastic sheet covering the ground. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pilot worried over landing jet: Crash report

Training queried.
Captain admits he had not studied autoflight system well enough

The pilot whose Boeing 777 crashed last summer at the San Francisco airport told investigators he was "very concerned" about attempting a

visual approach without the runway's instrument landing aids, which were out of service because of construction, according to an investigative report released Wednesday.

Lee Kang Kuk, 46, was landing the big jet for his first time at San Francisco. The jet crash-landed after approaching too low and slow, killing three people and injured more than 200, according to

the National Transportation Safety Board.

Though Lee was an experienced pilot with the Korea-based airline, he was a trainee captain in the 777, with less than 45 hours in the jet. He had not piloted an airliner into San Francisco since 2004, according to NTSB investigator Bill English.

So far, the investigation has not found any mechanic-

al problems with the 777 prior to impact, although testing is ongoing, English said.

Lee conceded he thought that the autothrottle was supposed to prevent the jet from flying below minimum speed as it drew near the runway. But two other Asiana pilots said they were told the throttle hold did not automatically re-engage under certain modes. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Wreckage of the Asiana airplane that crashed in July at San Francisco's international airport. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

Frankfurt, Germany

Anne Frank tree stolen from school

German police say a sapling cloned from the tree that lifted Anne Frank's spirits while she hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam has been felled and stolen from outside a school in Frankfurt bearing the name of the Jewish teenage diarist.

The 2.5 metre tree was felled over the weekend in the grounds of the Anne Frank School.

The original chestnut tree blew over in a storm in 2010 but scores of cloned saplings have been planted around the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hitler's Mein Kampf

Bavaria struggles to block book

Bavaria's state government says it will try to keep Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf out of publication in Germany after the copyright expires in 2015.

Mein Kampf isn't banned in Germany, but Bavaria has used its ownership of the copyright to block publication.

The Bavarian governor's chief of staff said late Tuesday Hitler's anti-Semitic memoir amounts to incitement and the government will file a criminal complaint if anyone tries to publish it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Torch bridges gap in Siberia

Olympic torch bearer Radomir Proshchenko climbs up to a bridge across the Tura River during the Olympic torch relay in Tyumen, western Siberia, Russia, Wednesday. The 65,000-kilometre Sochi torch relay, which started on Oct. 7, is the longest in Olympic history.

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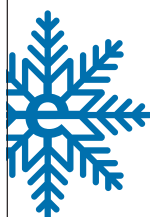
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Meat. FDA makes move to phase out use of some antibiotics in livestock

Citing a potential threat to public health, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is taking steps toward phasing out the use of some antibiotics in animals processed for meat.

The agency has announced that it will ask pharmaceutical companies to voluntarily stop labelling drugs important for treating human infection as acceptable for growth promotion in animals.

If the companies sign on — and one major company has already said it will

Protecting humans

The FDA move is designed to limit antibiotic-resistant diseases in humans. Repeated exposure to antibiotics can lead germs to become resistant to the drug so that it's no longer effective.

— using those antibiotics to promote growth in animals would be illegal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London

Two Damien Hirst artworks stolen

Two Damien Hirst artworks together valued at 33,000 pounds (\$57,000) have been stolen from a London art gallery, police said Wednesday.

The Metropolitan Police

said the two signed prints, Pyronin Y and Oleoylsarcosin, were taken from the Exhibitionist Gallery in west London in the early hours of Monday by a thief who forced the gallery doors. The works are among Hirst's series of Spot pieces, covered in multicoloured dots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FDA denies approval for female sexual-desire drug

Flibanserin. Daily pill is designed to increase libido in women by acting on brain chemicals linked to mood and appetite

The multi-decade search for a pill that boosts sexual desire in women has hit another roadblock, raising questions about the future of efforts to develop a female equivalent to Viagra.

Sprout Pharmaceuticals said Wednesday it has reached an impasse with the United States Food and Drug Administration over its drug, flibanserin. The pill is designed to increase libido in women by acting on brain chemicals.

The FDA questions whether the drug's benefits outweigh its risks, considering its "modest" effectiveness and side effects including fatigue and nausea.

Sprout said it is appealing



Cindy Whitehead holds a tablet of flibanserin in her office at Sprout Pharmaceuticals in Raleigh, N.C.

ALLEN G. BREED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

an October letter from the FDA that denied approval and asked for more information. But chances for approval appear slim: Of the 17 appeals FDA considered last year, 14 were denied, according to government figures.

The agency's latest rejection raises serious questions

for more than a half-dozen companies working to develop therapies for women who report stress due to lack of libido. It's a market drug makers have been trying to tap since the blockbuster success of Viagra, an erectile-dysfunction drug.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"A pill just doesn't take care of it."

Dr. Virginia Sadock, psychiatrist, on the difficulties of treating female sexual dysfunction.



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Vancouver proposes sending gay councillor to rep city in Sochi

Winter Olympics.

Councillor says cities vying to host Olympics should create 'pride houses'

Vancouver, the host city that introduced the "Pride House" to the Olympics movement, could soon send its gay deputy mayor to Russia to fight against homophobia in sport.

City councillors are expected to endorse a resolution next week sending Coun. Tim Stevenson and two members of his Host City Pride House Mission Team to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

Once there, the team will ask officials with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Paralympic Committee to include a non-discrimination clause for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-



Openly gay Vancouver city councillor and deputy mayor Tim Stevenson speaks to reporters after it was announced Wednesday that he may represent the city at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

gendered people in the Games' charter and require future host cities to endorse pride houses in their bids.

The trip would come about eight months after Russia passed a law that bans "propaganda of non-traditional sexual

relations" and imposes fines on people who stage gay pride rallies.

"This isn't to challenge laws

or to challenge the authorities," Stevenson told reporters in Vancouver Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pride House

What he hopes to do

"I am going to try to convince the IOC that they need to change.

"This isn't about trying to raise international incidents, and there will probably be others that may do that, I don't know, but good luck to them. But I want to go to make sure that we speak to the IOC and get them to understand how important it is to include sexual orientation in their charter and how important it is to have a safe house in every Olympics from here on in."

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Missing heart. Marine's parents seeking damages after accidental discovery

The parents of a U.S. Marine whose body came back from Greece missing his heart have amended their federal lawsuit to add the Greek government and an Athens hospital as defendants.

Craig and Beverly LaLoup are also suing the U.S. Department of Defence over the remains of 21-year-old Sgt. Brian LaLoup. The Defence Department doesn't comment on pending litigation. Messages were left with the Greek government and state-run Evangelismos General Hospital.

LaLoup, who was assigned to a security detail at the em-

bassy, had told a colleague he was suicidal over a breakup. The parents believe a Marine supervisor knew about his mindset but instead of getting help, took him out for drinks.

Their lawsuit alleges their son was allowed to get a weapon from a storage area later that night, despite his mood and level of intoxication, and shot himself. The U.S. government is generally immune from wrongful death lawsuits, so the family is seeking damages only over their emotional distress caused by the missing heart.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surrendered

Defection setback for Uganda's LRA

The Lord's Resistance Army led by Joseph Kony has suffered its biggest defection in years after 19 members

surrendered to an advocacy group and African Union troops hunting the insurgents in the Central African Republic, the advocacy group said. Invisible Children said in a statement the LRA members gave themselves up on Dec. 6.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frustrated Chinese citizens drink pesticide in protest

Homes demolished.

Residents say they'd had enough after years of fruitless petitioning

A dozen residents of a central Chinese city protested the demolition of their homes by drinking pesticide in Beijing in a desperate bid for attention that underscores the failures of a decades-old petitioning system.

The 12 survived the protest Tuesday near a historic watchtower in the heart of China's capital after police sent them to a hospital, where they were being treated Wednesday for poisoning, said Wang Yuping, one of the residents.

Chinese petitioners sometimes are driven to extreme measures as their frustration boils over after years of unresolved grievances and routine beatings by local authorities.



Chinese citizens from Wuhan province lie on the ground after drinking pesticide near a historic watchtower in the heart of Beijing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wang, 40, and the others had travelled to Beijing from a district in Wuhan, the provincial capital of Hubei province, to draw attention to their complaints.

Wang described the protest as a group suicide attempt.

"We have been petitioning for so many years, but either we have been dragged back home or locked in secret jails and beaten, and no one has been willing to help us," Wang said by telephone. "We felt like there was no hope left."

Each petitioner drank about 50 millilitres of pesticide, Wang said, then lay down on the ground until police bundled them into vehicles and drove them to a hospital.

Wang said the petitioners have been unsuccessfully seeking redress since 2010 for the razing of their homes by local authorities who provided little or no compensation.

Local government and police offices in Wuhan could not be reached by phone. Every year in China, millions of complaints are filed about what petitioners see as injustice or incompetence by local officials. The system is criticized as ineffective and being prone to abuse. Petitioners are often met with violence when they attempt to take their cases to Beijing, with local governments sending "interceptors" to stop them — with force — and keep them in informal "black jails" until they can be sent home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Stay in the Know about Snow!

SEASONAL PARKING BANS

When there is significant snowfall, the City of Edmonton will declare a seasonal parking ban in effect on collector roads and bus routes where 'seasonal no parking' signs appear.

A minimum of eight hours notice will be given. Once the seasonal parking ban comes into effect, all vehicles on signed routes **MUST** be moved off-street or to a side road where there are no signs prohibiting parking.

Citizens are advised about the seasonal parking ban through:

- Local media (TV, radio and internet)
- Roadside digital messaging signs
- Edmonton Transit bus-front messages
- E-mail notification system
- Facebook and Twitter posts
- City of Edmonton website
- 311

Vehicles that are not removed from signed routes during the ban are subject to tagging and towing.

There is NO parking allowed on the seasonal parking ban routes until the City declares the ban is over.

In some cases, additional work may be required or more snow may be forecasted, and the routes must remain clear of vehicles until crews have completed their duties and the ban officially lifted.

To sign up for email notifications or for more information about winter road maintenance in Edmonton, please visit www.edmonton.ca/winterroads



www.edmonton.ca/winterroads



Ottawa

Man faces human trafficking charges

Police in Ottawa say a 31-year-old man is facing six charges related to human trafficking and prostitution.

Police say the charges came after officers responded Monday to a complaint of suspicious activity at a home (on Greenview Avenue).

Zhao Liu of Ottawa faces charges that include human trafficking, living on the avails of prostitution, and keeping a common bawdy house.

Police say the alleged victims were over 18 years old. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Meteor shower ramps up

A meteor streaks across the sky during the annual Geminid meteor shower over Springville, Ala., in this Dec. 13, 2012, file photo. This year the meteor shower — the most intense of the year — will peak Friday night. But the best viewing may be early Saturday, once the moon sets. **MARK ALMOND, AL.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Census resister sticks to her guns



Janet Churnin, left, stands outside a Toronto courthouse with Audrey Tobias on Wednesday. Both women refused to fill out the mandatory census in 2011 and were taken to trial. **DIANA MEHTA/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Data collection. Senior says she's not opposed to the census but doesn't want a U.S. company involved

A 79-year-old woman on trial for refusing to fill out the mandatory census in 2011 stood staunchly by her decision Wednesday, as her lawyer suggested the government didn't do enough to address her concerns about a U.S. arms maker's role in the data collection process.

The Crown, however, argued that Canadians cannot refuse to comply with legitimate government obligations simply on the basis of moral disapproval or specula-

tive security fears.

Janet Churnin has been charged with violating the Statistics Act and, if convicted, could face a \$500 fine and/or three months in jail.

"Whatever happens will happen," the soft-spoken senior said with a shrug outside a Toronto court. "I still wouldn't change anything."

At the heart of Churnin's worries lies defence company Lockheed Martin's involvement in the census process, which she learned about only after reading a newspaper article flagged by a friend.

Statistics Canada has said the government contracted Lockheed Martin to provide software for its census operations in 2003, and used the custom-built systems for both the 2006 and 2011 census.

Churnin worried information on Canada's population was at risk because she thought it could be accessed by Lockheed Martin, or even the U.S. government if it made the corporation turn over the data under its Patriot Act.

"Your privacy is not considered at all," she told court when explaining her decision to refrain from filling out the census form.

Churnin's case is similar to that of an 89-year-old peace activist who also refused to fill out the 2011 census.

In that case, Audrey Tobias was found not guilty in October by a Toronto judge who soundly criticized the government for trying to prosecute someone who was a "model citizen." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Craig Kielburger leaves condolences for Nelson Mandela in South Africa.
COURTESY MICHAEL RAJZMAN

Let's start with your response to the massive memorial service you attended for Nelson Mandela.

The emotions that are running through me — I'd say one is gratitude for the role that he played as one of the great leaders in our world for human rights ... but also, I have a sense of responsibility and I hope everyone does feel a sense of responsibility, that the world was fortunate to see

CRAIG KIELBURGER

As the world mourns Nelson Mandela, one of Canada's preeminent youth leaders, and co-founder of Free The Children, spoke with Metro Tuesday from Johannesburg after attending Mandela's memorial.

"A SENSE OF JUST PROFOUND GRATITUDE."

someone like Mandela and now the question is, what will we do to live that legacy ... I'd say it's very much a sense of just profound gratitude.

How has Nelson Mandela helped shape Free The Children?

I had the pleasure to hear him speak in various capacities ... and once, very briefly meeting him, as did my brother — to ask him a question about his leadership philosophy ... he reflected on how he was as a young person, a shepherd or herder, and he learned

a lesson that forever stayed with him ... that you always had to stand in the back to make sure your sheep, or your goats, always got to where they were supposed to go — that they didn't wander off to the side ... that simple idea, the lessons that he taught — the humanity — is an amazing influence.

What was Mandela's impact on you?

Inspiring. I don't think there's any other word that one can use ... inspiring in what he represented, inspiring in how he carried himself, inspiring

in his words — but mostly inspiring in his dreams ... That to lead, you must walk from behind and I think that speaks to the essence of who he was. A leader through-and-through, but someone who was so dedicated to making sure the most vulnerable always arrived.

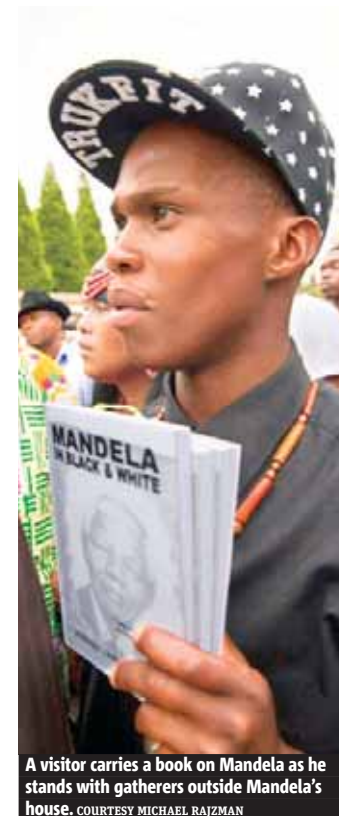
How important is it that leaders are encouraging the world to model themselves after Mandela?

I hope that more world leaders would model themselves on Mandela. I think it's very easy to quote him, it's very difficult to model him ... if world leaders want to honour Mandela ... they can increase their foreign-aid commitments, they can promote service and volunteerism in their country, they can show that same compassion and forgiveness with some of the great intractable conflicts of our world — that would be a great way to honour Mandela.

What legacy do you think Mandela will leave behind?

I think legacy isn't something that he writes. In his time on this earth, he inspired us with his courage and his humanity and his willingness to forgive and his legacy will, ironically, be something we write ... the legacy is in our hands and I think we have an opportunity that we should not waste.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON



A visitor carries a book on Mandela as he stands with gatherers outside Mandela's house. COURTESY MICHAEL RAJZMAN

Dispatches from South Africa by Craig Kielburger

1 Arrival. With a heavy heart

On Wednesday, I walked into the courtyard of the Union Buildings in Pretoria where, in 1994, Nelson Mandela was sworn in as the first democratically elected president of South Africa. I headed up a flight of stairs and stopped. It felt as though there was pressure on my chest, heaviness in my heart. I took a deep breath. I expected to see a closed casket and hadn't prepared to see his body. People are lining up for up to seven hours to pay their respects. Of course.

2 Tribute. A sense of gratitude

I'm struck how a nation can come together for such an overwhelming tribute to Mandela, patriarch of this lush country once fractured by racism and hatred. These tributes extend beyond borders. I can't imagine another living person today, or in my lifetime, that could have such a unifying effect. Standing waist-deep in flowers left outside Mandela's house, sharing stories with his friends at a service, standing with South Africans to visit, I feel gratitude.

3 Pride. A never-dying spirit

"For the spirit of Nelson Mandela, it was the right time for him to go because he had done everything humanly possible to change this country. His was a never-dying spirit that showed us anybody can become anything." — Sammy Ntimanem, 34, in the Union Buildings in Pretoria

4 Hope. More than just a moment

"We have been friends and co-workers for eight years. We are very patriotic and support every event we can, from political, to sports, to moments like this. But this is more than just a moment. We came to the square to give tribute to the greatest man on Earth," said Esther Rubin, with Lilahloane Mokale in Nelson Mandela Square, Johannesburg. Added Mokale: "We love him so very much ... What we have is because of him. I hope we can go on without him."

5 Remember. For the next generation

"I so want my daughter to remember this day. That's why I have her here. As she grows up I will keep telling her stories about apartheid and how it was before in this country." — Monica Ntimana, 29, with Grace, five months



Work continues

100

At Free the Children, we are adding our voice to the tributes to Mandela. Our organization, along with Canadian schoolchildren, is building 100 schools in Africa. Mandela once said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

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Five-stage plan.

In a bid to save up to \$900M a year, Canada Post will phase out door-to-door service

Canada Post is making dramatic changes to its mail services beginning next year, part of a new plan that will see door-to-door delivery phased out and postage stamp prices soar.

While some community organizations are rattled and the postal union is rallying to protect thousands of jobs, the news may barely interrupt the tweets and texts of most Canadians.

Rapid technology changes have reduced Canadians' reliance on the postal service, making the traditional daily check for the letter drop almost unnecessary in 2013. Bill pay-



The familiar sight of mailmen is set to become a distant memory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

greetings.

The financial situation for Canada Post has been bad for years as the Crown corporation tried to maintain a profitable business processing fewer letters, even as the number of Canadian addresses grows by about 200,000 locations each year.

In 2012, only about one-third of Canadians, or nearly 5.1 million people, received mail delivery to their door, costing an average of \$283 per year for each address, according to the Canada Post annual report.

The rest of Canadians either visited a central location, like an apartment lobby, community mailbox, rural mailbox or delivery facility, which cost the corporation significantly less.

On Wednesday, Canada Post unveiled a five-stage plan that will help save up to \$900 million a year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

ments are made online, couriers deliver parcels and, at this time of year, email inboxes are more likely than mailboxes to be overflowing with Christmas

Not an effective strategy

On LinkedIn? Nix 'responsible' from your profile

Responsible is the No. 1 most overused buzzword on LinkedIn profiles in Canada, and globally, in 2013.

The professional networking site also named "strategic," "effective" and "creative" on this year's Top 10 list of overused words on business profiles.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute



DOLLAR
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TSX
13,133.42 (-190.59)



OIL
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GOLD
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Natural gas: \$4.34 US (+0.09)
Dow Jones: 15,843.53 (-129.60)



Pope named person of 2013

Time magazine selected Pope Francis as its Person of the Year on Wednesday, saying the Catholic Church's new leader has changed the perception of the 2,000-year-old institution in an extraordinary way in a short time. The Pope has denounced the world's "idolatry of money" and the "global scandal" that 1 billion people today go hungry, and has charmed the masses with his simple style and wry sense of humour. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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IT'S CHILLY — NOT THE TASTY TYPE

Lo and be cold, it's that time of year again in Canada.

When I watch the morning forecast, some of the temperatures are best measured in Kelvin: "It will be Absolute Zero in Regina, but with the wind chill it will feel like we've passed beyond our understanding of thermodynamics, so bundle up!"

As I walk to work, my palm burns from my morning coffee but the back of my hand freezes from the coffee dripping. (In all things, moderation.)

And at work, I waste my time with YouTube videos illustrating that household pets, if tossed into the frigid air, will disintegrate into snow before they hit the ground.

N-n-n-not to put too f-f-f-fine a point on it, but it's c-c-c-cold.

It's all relative, of course — an Edmontonian accustomed to -25 C might hallucinate in the balmy -8 C of Toronto and imagine oases in the distance, frozen solid and covered in sexy skaters. Yet



HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

a friend of mine who's moved to Toronto from Vancouver was lost when she was told T.O. gets "twice as cold" as it is now.

"I don't even know what that means," she said, like somebody who'd been told they'll be murdered on Tuesday and again on Thursday.

My point being, it's best we set aside our regional differences and accept that the whole nation is a frigid wasteland — No Country for Cold Men.

Beer commercials to the contrary, most Canadian adults cower inside all winter. And when youth do go outside it results in all matter of deformities: Swollen ears and tongues stuck to metal and faces frozen solid. I once froze up so badly while waiting for a school bus that even when laughing I couldn't smile, leaving all my

classmates in hysterics and providing an early cautionary tale about the dangers of Botox.

With these extreme dangers frozen in our minds, here are seven tips for any extreme-cold emergencies this winter:

1) Your home and car should have an emergency kit that includes: Warm water; Super Inferno Cinnamon Gum; one pack of erotic playing cards; a watch that runs on the cold; marshmallows; a magic hat for snowman sentence creation; plane tickets to some place warmer.

2) When lighting that furniture-fuelled bonfire in your living room, only use clean-burning natural gas.

3) Leaving your car running all winter will make those morning commutes comfy while speeding up global warming.

4) Soak wool in warm water before heading out.

5) To keep your kids warm, put all of them in the same adult-sized snowsuit and have them walk in tandem, imitating a full-sized person. Cartoon capering is also great exercise.

6) Remember to swing open your door every 10 minutes or so to see if it's gotten any warmer outside.

7) Find out what Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi's doing. He's got this.

And those are my tips. Careful you don't freeze them right off. A friendly reminder: While I've made light of the chill, hypothermia and frostbite are no laughing matter. Or maybe they are. It's so hard to tell with our faces frozen like this.

ZOOM

War, from a kid's perspective



COURTESY BRIAN MCCARTY

Photographer captures a feeling

This shot of toy missiles heading for a doll's house isn't meant for playtime — it's how a child sees war. The striking image by Hollywood photographer Brian McCarty features in his War-Toys project, which explores how conflict is perceived through the eyes of kids caught up in war and violence across the Middle East. **METRO**

Q and A

Toys make sense of it all



BRIAN MCCARTY
Photographer/artist,
39, based in West
Hollywood, Calif.

What's your project about?
Starting back in 2011, I travelled to Israel and the Palestinian Territories to

explore war from the perspective of children. I visited humanitarian organizations where children were invited to draw pictures about their lives. The resulting illustrations served as the basis for my photographs.

Why did you use toys?
As children, toys became surrogates through which we acted out aspects of the

world around us. Our play allowed us to organically deconstruct what it meant to be human and digest large concepts in smaller bites. War is so dehumanizing and outside normal reality that, even as adults, we need toys to make sense of it. We need the distance provided by these plastic totems to begin seeing the actual horrors without being made numb.

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

The digital equivalent of a rotoscope, animated GIFs are one of the oldest image formats used on the web. Invented in the 1980s, the humble GIF has since become a staple of online culture. Easy to make and even easier to share, they're the perfect platform for everything from humour to art. Most image-editing programs can make GIFs, but here are a few apps that simplify the process. Happy GIFing! Just don't get me started on how it's pronounced.



CONTRIBUTED

GifBoom:

Available on both Android and iOS, GifBoom is considered the Instagram of mobile GIF-making apps. The social features are largely optional, but the built-in GIF-maker is intuitive and lets you do things like add filters or sound.

Cinemagram:

Another cross-platform smartphone app, Cinemagram veers towards creating GIFs out of video footage. The app's appeal lies in its masking function, which allows you to select which parts of a frame are animated.

ImgFlip:

If you want to be old fashioned and make GIFs in your web browser, ImgFlip is one of the more full-featured sites. It lets you build GIFs out of either video or pictures, and includes a decent suite of editing tools.

Twitter



@metropicks asked: The home mailbox will be obsolete as @canadapostcorp ends urban delivery. What's the best way to repurpose a mailbox?

@draxapup: flower pot on every front stoop

@willems_steph: Frozen food delivery receptacle.

@Canucklehead_ca: 1) Print & delete emails. 2) Place in mailbox. 3) Take out & reply (via email) to each. (Will require retyping original email.)

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2
SCENE

The revolution will be tributized

Wannabe.

Spice up your weekend: Girl Power makes a comeback with Posh, Sporty, Scary, Baby and Ginger coming to Edmonton



JENNIFER LARAWAY
Jennifer Laraway
edmonton@metronews.ca

Nearly 20 years ago, a revolution started.

In 1994, the Spice Girls set off a global wave of girl power. The five girl band represented a spectrum of personalities.

Their brash, sexy, and sporty temperaments resonated with fans around the world, including five Canadian ladies who now unleash their inner-spice with Wannabe: A Spice Girls Tribute Band.

"We all have a dance background and this idea actually started as a joke. But, we put a show together just to see what would happen. It took off and sold out before we really started," says Barbara Johnston, a.k.a. Ginger Spice.

Details

- This is their debut Edmonton performance.
- Tickets are \$35 each.
- Purchase tickets through citedel-theatre.com.

True to Spice Girl form, this tribute band isn't a one-hit wonder.

They have had requests to perform all over the world. The ladies recently passed up the opportunity to perform in Dubai to keep their inaugural Edmonton

performance, which takes place Dec. 12 through the 14 at the Club Cabaret (9828 101 A Ave.).

Johnston attributes the popularity to an evolving movement.

What once targeted impressionable

teen girls has grown to be popular with those in the gay and transgendered communities.

Johnstone says she and the rest of the tribute band members have set their standards high to ensure audiences get the Spice experience they would expect at the real deal.

"We have a wig maker, a make-up artist taught us our 'face' and of course, there's learning to perform in heels," Johnston says.

"We rehearsed for four months before our first show to match the harmonies of the girls. But each show needs custom prep because we have a new band and it all has to sync up.

"So, it's quite a lot of work that goes into it."

As the ladies worked through their own performances, they found a new appreciation for the songs their idols performed.

"When we started arranging material, we realized just how well-crafted these pop songs were," says Johnston.

"Getting to play one of them is literally a dream come true. They are characters in themselves and so we it's really fulfilling to get to play them. We try to bring that spirit, the girl power, energy, and camaraderie of the original band to the audience. The audience really gives back to us."



Wannabe takes the Club Cabaret stage Dec. 12 through the 14.

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DC assembles future dream team

New 52. Writers tasked with writing a tale of how heroes change over time

Nearly three years after its debut, DC Comics is pushing its New 52 five years into the future with writers Jeff Lemire, Keith Giffen, Brian Azzarello and Dan Jurgens to examine how heroes change with the passing of time and technology.

The weekly title, *The New 52: Futures End*, debuts on Free Comic Book Day in May with the first issue of series hitting shelves and digital storefronts later that month. It is the second such weekly book for DC in 2014. The other, *Batman: Eternal*, launches in the spring as DC celebrates Batman's 75th anniversary.

"Just look at the talent roster that's been gathered. How could you not want to be a part of that?" asked Giffen, who did layouts for

DC's weekly comic series 52 in 2006.

Hints about the series have been dropped by DC in recent weeks, with images of *Batman Beyond* online as well as a mention in the DC All Access web series that saw a pair of logo designs dubbed *Five Years Later*.

Lemire calls the new weekly series an exploration of DC's past, present and its future.

"Really, what we're trying to do with this book is to explore the nature of what a hero is and we're doing that, obviously by playing with the future of the New 52 timeline," he said. "Past present and future all colliding in this story line."

That means exploring the past with a character like *Frankenstein*, the present with *Firestorm* and the future with *Batman Beyond* who is, Lemire said, making what is his first "in-continuity appearance. He'll become part of the New 52."

Those three, however, are not the only characters

who will have a place in the series.

"That's definitely one of our mandates, too," Lemire said. "To create new characters and new concepts that will hopefully have a life beyond the series."

Artists on the series include Ethan Van Sciver, drawing the zero issue, along with Jesus Merino, Aaron Lopresti and Jurgens, among others who will be added as the series goes from one issue to the next, every week.

The writers, all of whom have deep and historical ties to DC Entertainment and its roster of heroes and villains, have been working to craft a story that focuses on the past, present and future that will have implications across the DC universe, says Lemire, calling it a "high concept" work.

"The cast is quite large," he said.

"They are three of many that are getting a significant amount of time in the series."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The New 52: Futures End debuts on Free Comic Book Day in May. CONTRIBUTED

Super casting news

Momoa may join *Batman vs. Superman*

Will Jason Momoa get the same harsh treatment from fanboys as Ben Affleck did?

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the *Game of Thrones* star, who played Khal Drogo on the first season of the hit HBO fantasy, is in talks to join the cast of *Batman vs. Superman*, which is fast shaping up to be a sort of *Love Actually* of superheroes, at least in terms of cast size.

Batman vs. Superman stars Ben Affleck as Batman, I must inform you in case you just joined the Internet today. Henry Cavill will reprise his role as Superman and newcomer Israeli actress Gal Gadot will play Wonder Woman. The production hasn't announced what role Momoa would play in the film. Fans speculate that Momoa may be coming on board to play a villain.

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Winter flicks to help pass the time inside

Even when the winter chill forces you indoors, there's still a way to enjoy the frosty weather. Plenty of snowy flicks abound to either celebrate the icy romance of an all-white landscape, or bemoan the cold, stark isolation that comes with darker days. On the days you just can't bear the outdoors, trade that blanket of snow for a cosy cover on the couch and settle in with one of these winter-set classics. Here's a look at five snow-bound flicks to keep you toasty by the tube.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Fargo

Writers-directors Joel and Ethan Coen capture all the beauty and harshness of a frigid winter season with this brutal 1996 crime thriller. It's full of striking images that linger long after the final credits, many of them featuring a barren northern landscape instantly recognizable to most Canadians. Who hasn't had a near-mental breakdown while scraping ice off a frozen windshield? Star William H. Macy is pitch perfect as bumbling car salesman Jerry Lundegaard, who hatches a brazen kidnapping that goes horribly awry.



Into the Wild

The unforgiving elements of winter feature prominently in this 2007 adventure tale about a young wanderer, played by Emile Hirsch, who sets his sights on a solo excursion to Alaska after graduating from university. His foolhardy odyssey takes him across the continent in search of enlightenment and solitude, and he meets a range of friendly eccentrics along the way. But a cold hard truth awaits this idealistic loner, and his anguished journey — based on real events — is hard to shake.



The Shining

Chills abound in this 1980 horror classic about a young family that is hired to look after a creepy old hotel that is shuttered for the slow winter months. Cabin fever predictably sets in for the crazy-eyed dad, played with unforgettable zeal by Jack Nicholson, and that's just when the hotel starts to reveal it may have a cold, dark past. The weirdness mounts as the snow falls, culminating in a memorable blizzard chase scene and one character's icy demise.



Cold Mountain

It's pretty cold up on Cold Mountain, and we're reminded of that constantly in this 2003 period drama about a Civil War soldier, played by Jude Law, who trudges through a harsh landscape to return to his faithful sweetheart Ada, played by Nicole Kidman. This is a good old-fashioned love story also starring Renée Zellweger, where the burning ardour of separated lovers sustain them through a barrage of hardships that continually work to keep them apart.



The Empire Strikes Back

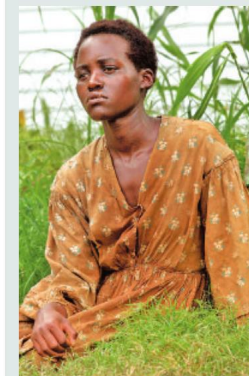
OK, this kid-friendly classic makes the list largely due to that disgusting blizzard scene where Han Solo cuts open the belly of a passed out tauntaun and stuffs a delirious Luke Skywalker inside to keep him from freezing to death. But of course, that's not Han's only brush with deadly cold in this beloved 1980 Star Wars instalment, there's another chilly scene that's spawned all sorts of quirky merchandise including Han-shaped ice cube trays and Han-shaped chocolate bars.

Hollywood

12 Years A Slave tops SAG noms

Steve McQueen's historic saga 12 Years a Slave, Jon Wells' dysfunctional family adaptation August: Osage County, Jean-Marc Vallée's AIDS drama Dallas Buyers Club and the sweeping White House servant tale Lee Daniels' The Butler topped the list of outstanding performances for the 20th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards. 12 Years a Slave scored four nominations, while Osage County and The Butler earned three nominations in Wednesday's announcements. Each of the three films was nominated for overall performance by their casts. Also nominated for best ensemble cast was David O. Russell's 1970s con-artist romp American Hustle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



12 Years a Slave scored four SAG nominations. CONTRIBUTED

WORLD WATERPARK PRESENTS



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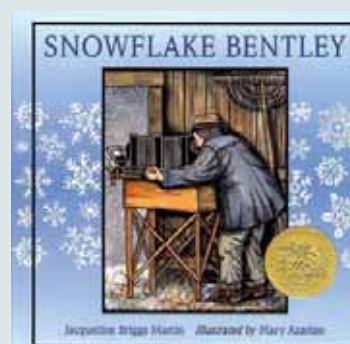
Book in some time for holiday reading

Brrrr. It's time for all good children to curl up with a good book featuring snow. Here are eight to get you started or pass on to gifters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snowflake Bentley — Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Reprint edition from HMH Books for Young Readers. Another Caldecott Medal winner, this one was also first published in 1998. It tells the story of Vermont's Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley, a self-educated farmer who combined a microscope and an old bellows camera to become the first person to photograph a single snow crystal in 1885.



The Snowy Day — Ezra Jack Keats

Reprint edition from Puffin.

This 1963 Caldecott Medal winner is the tranquil story of a city boy named Peter who bundles up for crunchy outdoor adventures after discovering it snowed overnight. Cutouts, watercolours and the Brooklyn-born creator's classic collage work. It's considered the first full-colour picture book to feature an African-American protagonist.



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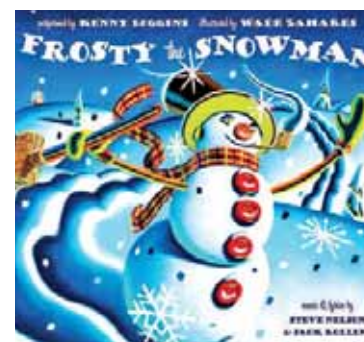
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Frosty the Snowman

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Wade Zahares,
this retelling
of the
seasonal song
standard fea-
tures a trippy looking Frosty in black top hat and green mittens. Includes a three-track CD with the song and others performed by Grammy winner Kenny Loggins.



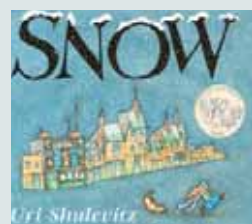
Big Snow — Jonathan Bean

From Farrar Straus Giroux. Big Snow tells the story of an antsy young boy who awaits a big snowstorm. Botching chores with his mother when changing bedsheets, fluffy flour for cookies and sudsy soap bubbles while cleaning the bathroom lead him into a blizzard dream at naptime.



Snow — Uri Shulevitz

Reprint edition from Square Fish. First out in 1998. A hopeful "boy with dog" lives in a great, grey city inhabited by doubtful grown-ups transformed with the season's first snowflake. It earned Shulevitz, who survived the bombing of Warsaw as a boy, a Caldecott Honor and may be just the thing to cheer up a modern-day "grandfather with beard" who utters: "It's only a snowflake."



Ladybug Girl and the Big Snow — David Soman and Jacky Davis

From Dial Books for Young Readers. The latest in the bestselling franchise by this husband-and-wife team. Lulu dons her trademark all-red ladybug look, dotted wings and tutu over puffy jacket and snow pants to romp in a magical big snow with her dog, Bingo. Joined by her brother, they create lots of snow animals, including a nice likeness of her pet.



When it Snows — Richard Collingridge

From Feiwel and Friends. A picture book debut that features not only an eerie ode to mega-snow and various large icy creatures, but also a good word at the end for reading itself.



The Snow Queen — Hans Christian Andersen

Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, from Harper. The black crow and troll practically jump off the page in detailed, lifelike drawings by the Russian-born artist. The queen, with winged headpiece and icy eyes, lures young Kai to her frozen castle, where he nearly perishes from cold until his rescue by childhood friend Gerda.



Angry Birds are off to the races with soapbox derby

Gaming. Our favourite pig-bashing critters flock back for a zany downhill contest that's easy to get into, but harder to master

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Any birdbrain can get behind the wheel of a rickety soapbox racer, but it'll take a gaming boffin to complete Angry Birds Go!, game developer Rovio's latest

title out now. The 3D Piggy Island derby pits players against classic characters (Red, Chuck, Stella, King Pig) in wacky races like Fruit Splat, Versus and Race Challenges.

It's a virtual petrol-head shot of Mario Kart-style mischief, suitable for any occasion from the morning commute to curling up on the couch for an evening session.

The game is as addictive as it is Luddite-proof. The company that has expanded its Angry Birds franchise into animations, theme parks and merchandise plans to release a feature film in 2016. Rovio Entertainment EVP Jami Laes tells Metro about why the free download is the best on the market and the future of entertainment.

Did you deliberately make this version particularly user-friendly compared to earlier Angry Birds games?

As our audience has grown, we want to make the gaming experience as accessible as possible. The game is easy to get into but hard to master and hard to beat. There's a level of learning required — you have to peel away the game's layers to progress.

What are those layers?

The core is always the same: the soapbox derby with one character and one kart. But as you progress, you learn about top speed, acceleration and handling and how the characters have different powers. Gamers learn how to utilize their skill sets for the different events: Fruit Splat, Time Challenges or Boss Fights — it's a tactical and strategic game.

Is this to prolong the game's shelf life?

Definitely. By providing more diversity and different challenges, we find it's the best way to keep players engaged and really get into the gaming experience for a longer period of time.

It reminds me of Mario Kart and Sonic. Did you have these games in mind during development?

I mean we've all played Mario Kart on the N64 but it's a very different UI (user experience) with the tilt and tap controls. It is straightforward downhill soapbox racing. We built something for the play patterns and usability of the touchscreen generation rather than imitate some-



Angry Birds Go! is the latest installment in the avian franchise. CONTRIBUTED

thing else out there.

Obviously players are going to compare this Angry Birds game to its predecessors. Did you find it difficult to produce something that's going to live up to the franchise's past successes?

I don't think we did. We're going in a very different direction. It's a non-slingshot gameplay pattern — but there are similarities in terms of the characters, humour and mayhem and there's some physics involved. We felt comfortable producing what we thought is the right game for today's audience's gameplay patterns, rather than replicate what we did with Angry Birds' earlier slingshot games.

Candy Crush is one of the biggest hits at the moment. What has this game got over the current competition?

It's the best casual racing game out there. It's the most polished and approachable, with a wide-reaching appeal. Unlike Candy Crush, we're not going for middle-aged women. We're going for tweens and above — the gamer generation.

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Publishing



Oprah Winfrey GETTY IMAGES

Oprah taps The Invention of Wings as next book pick

When Oprah tells people to read a book, they listen. She has the power to make a new release with one endorsement. So what book can you expect to see flying off the shelves in 2014? Her latest pick: The Invention of

Wings by Secret Life of Bees author Sue Monk Kidd.

The story is set in the early 1800s and is about a complex relationship between two women: Hetty, a slave who lives with a wealthy family in Charleston and dreams of escaping; and Sarah, a white daughter of privilege who is given Hetty for her 11th birthday.

**EMILY LAURENCE/
METRO WORLD NEWS**

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Awards season

AFI announces top films of 2013

Steve McQueen's historical saga 12 Years a Slave, David O. Russell's con artist romp American Hustle, Ryan Coogler's numbing Fruitvale Station and Alfonso Cuarón's space odyssey Gravity round out the American Film Institute's top 10 movies of the year.

Also landing on the list, announced Monday: Paul Greengrass' Somali pirate drama Captain Phillips; Spike Jonze's futuristic computer love tale Her; Ethan and Joel Coen's folk scene-focused dark comedy Inside Llewyn Davis; John Lee Hancock's Disney comedy Saving Mr. Banks; and Martin Scorsese's provocative stockbroker story The Wolf of Wall Street.

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Kate Winslet ALL IMAGES GETTY

It's only baby Rocknroll but mommy Kate likes him, likes him, yes she does

Kate Winslet is a new mom once again. The Oscar winner gave birth to a son, her first kid with new husband Ned Rocknroll, Saturday in the U.K., her rep confirms to People magazine. "Baby and mother are doing great," her rep says,

though more information about the boy — including his name — wasn't disclosed. Winslet also has a daughter, Mia, from her marriage to Jim Threapleton and a son, Joe, with second husband Sam Mendes.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Streisand acts as catalyst for amicable Lane and Brolin split

Diane Lane orchestrated a fairly smooth split from ex-husband Josh Brolin thanks reportedly in large part to an unlikely ally: Brolin's stepmother, Barbra Streisand. "She made it clear she would help Diane get everything she needed in her split from her own husband's son," a source tells Radar Online. "Barbra made it

clear the divorce needed to go smoothly for the sake of the kids." Things went so smoothly, in fact, that Brolin reportedly turned down an offer to play Batman in the upcoming Man of Steel sequel because Lane will be reprising her role as Clark Kent's mother. "He didn't want to make Diane uncomfortable," the source says. "They're really going to be fine as a divorced couple. Josh admits he's too much of a 'bad boy' to be married to one woman, and Diane and Barbra and even his father James Brolin agree completely."



Twitter



@ElizabethHurley
Pea souper in London today.



@josswhedon
Movies teach us that a man with daddy issues is a HERO and a man with mommy issues is a sexually dysfunctional serial killer.



@TomArnold
I've officially lost 80 pounds. Now even my gay friends are complimenting me.



Demi Moore

Broken-hearted Moore ringing in the changes

Now that her divorce from Ashton Kutcher is finalized, Demi Moore is reportedly rushing to erase anything that reminds her of him

from her life — including the engagement ring he got her, which she quietly sold recently, according to Star magazine. "Ashton broke her heart," a source says. "Anything that reminds her of him makes her sad, and she wants to be happy." Moore sold the five-carat, emerald-cut anonymously on consignment for \$250,000, the source claims.

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Trends Report

Joseph Nogucci is an up-and-coming Canadian fashion accessories brand built by Toronto architecture and engineering students, Mario Christian and Luca Daniel. Go online to Trends Report to read about how the duo transformed sketches that were meant for buildings into designs for bracelets and beads.

Follow Irene on twitter @MetrolreneK or Instagram: kuanirene

www.metronews.ca/voices/trends-report



The year in colour

Orchid is growing on us

Radiant Orchid, a version of the purple hue is Pantone Inc.'s colour of the year for 2014. It follows this year's pick of emerald green.

Officially known as Radiant Orchid, the tropical shade is a colour-wheel contrast to green, said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. "It's a little different, it's a little off the beaten path, and it's not a primary colour," she explains. "It's an invitation to innovation." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Alice Smith doesn't 'speak makeup'

Natural woman.

The soul singer loves her beauty products — she just doesn't always like wearing them. She tells us about her Ramona Quimby hair and her trick to never waking up with dry skin (hint: it rhymes with sheep).

ROMINA
McGUINNESS
Metro World News

Alice Smith's deep lyrical voice is so soothing it could almost put you to sleep. Luckily, the one-time Grammy-nominee won't take offence if you do. Why? Because she believes that sleep is nature's way of helping you look pretty and fresh faced.

"Eye bags are a sign that you either need to take a break or go to sleep. So if I'm working late one night, I just make sure I drink a lot of water and go straight to bed. That's it," she explains from her home in Brooklyn. And for those rare moments when shut-eye isn't enough? "In that case I'll use a little bit of MAC Studio Finish Concealer," she adds.



Alice Smith's second album *She* was released in March. ALEX ELENA

Letting her skin make its own oil

"I wash my face with Sothys Cleansing Cream twice a day, and in the morning I follow up with their Hydradance Light Hydrating Cream. I don't put anything on at night because that's when your skin is busy working and making oil. You just have to make sure you use really good stuff. So far, I've never woken up with dry skin. I also see my facialist, Mamie McDonald, about once every six

weeks and she just does what she needs to do. I always leave with a really clean face!"

Not needing foundation — ever

"I love makeup, but I don't speak makeup. I don't wear a lot of it because it's not good for your complexion. But if I feel a little washed out, I'll do my eyebrows up a little and put some mascara on. But I never wear foundation — ever. Definitely not when I'm on stage. I want to be able to touch my face and it's not like

I'm a big sweater, but I might sweat. So I just don't see the point. When I'm performing, I stick to brows, lashes and lips. I love a burnt sienna lipstick but you have to be really feeling it to pull such a bold colour off. And I always carry a tin of Burt's Bees Beeswax Lip Balm with me."

Her 'Ramona Quimby' hair

"I used to dye my hair in college and it was like orange! I

don't think it was meant to be that colour...but I liked it. I had a fringe and a short bob, which made me look like Ramona Quimby! I'd love to dye my hair again but I think I'm just afraid of how it would turn out."

Her new album *She* and making it through the music industry unscathed

"It feels like a lifetime ago that I released my first album but I've always had a lot of support. My family and my friends have always been there for me. I'm not any different. I think I'm just older. I have a three-year-old daughter now, and she's made me re-evaluate and re-examine who I am and who I need to be. For me it's about what kind of person I'm trying to encourage her to be — how to be successful, how to care for herself. And because the only way to teach things is to show, I need to be able to show her how to do all that."

Her beauty icons

"I love Sade...I've always thought she was so beautiful."

Alice lets us take a peek inside her makeup bag

L'Oréal Voluminous Mascara

"I love this because it doesn't come off or flake up. You're not going to have any mascara sitting under your lashes."



Stila Stay All Day Waterproof Liquid Eye Liner

"I'm always on the road and they sell this at Sephora, meaning I can always get my hands on one when I run out."



MAC Cosmetics Mineralize Skinfinish Natural Powder

"I use this as a highlighter. I like the fact it blends in really nicely and doesn't make my face shine."



NARS Cosmetics Velvet Matte Lip Pencil in Dragon Girl

"I love the fact I can use this to colour my entire lip in one go."



Mac Eye Brows in spiked

"This is perfect for when you want to add depth to your brows."



3 TIME

Critters all through the house

Pawed, clawed, tailed, scaled, beaked, snouted, winged and web-footed: Animals are a delight at any time of year, but what better season than Christmas to have a merry menagerie about? Add creatures big and small to your holiday decor scheme, or give a gilded beast as a gift. This year, it's a snap to source your choice of fauna in two favourite finishes, white or gold.



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca



Create wintery-wild drinks with this Polar Bear Cocktail Shaker, \$92, potterybarn.com.

From the designer's debut collection of animal curiosities, Kate Spade New York's Woodland Park Cat/Dog Salt & Pepper Set, \$30, thebay.com.



Ommm... with the right pose and a trendy gold finish, I get a good vibe from this guy. Yoga Frog, \$40, pier1.com.

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Who wants light? Owl Glow Lamp, \$39, urbanbarn.com.

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Take it back to historic foodie basics

Mackeroons



This recipe makes 80 mackeroons. ALL IMAGES: PAT CROCKER, FROM SETTING A FINE TABLE: HISTORICAL DESSERTS AND DRINKS FROM THE OFFICERS' KITCHENS AT FORT YORK (WHITECAP BOOKS)

and shape them on wafer-paper, with a spoon round: bake them in a gentle oven on tin plates. **THE ART OF COOKERY MADE PLAIN AND EASY (HANNAH GLASSE, 1796)**

Modern Equivalent

1. Line 2 rimless baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In a food processor, chop the almonds, scraping down the sides of the bowl from

time to time, until they are the consistency of very coarse sand with some slightly larger pieces. Set aside.

3. In a separate large bowl, beat the egg whites with the orange flower water until soft peaks form. Add the sugar about 2 tbsp (30 ml) at a time, beating until stiff peaks form. Sprinkle the chopped almonds over the egg white mixture and fold in

to distribute evenly.

4. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls (6 ml) about 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart onto the prepared baking sheets. Bake in the centre of a 325 F (160 C) oven until they are dry to the touch, but still white, and lift easily off the parchment paper, about 12 to 15 minutes.

5. Let cool on the pans on a rack. **RECIPE EXCERPTED FROM SETTING**

Modern Ingredients

- 3 cups (750 ml) whole blanched almonds
- 4 medium egg whites (1/2 cup/125 ml)
- 2 tsp (10 ml) orange flower water
- 2 cups (500 ml) superfine granulated sugar

A FINE TABLE: HISTORICAL DESSERTS AND DRINKS FROM THE OFFICERS' KITCHENS AT FORT YORK (WHITECAP BOOKS) EDITED BY ELIZABETH BAIRD AND BRIDGET WRANICH

"Today, mackeroons (now spelled macaroons) are a meringue made with coconut, but until the mid-19th century they contained finely chopped or pounded sweet almonds," notes Setting A Fine Table. "Recipes for mackeroons appeared frequently in 17th- and 18th-century cookery books, with varying ratios of sugar to egg whites. Mackeroons were served with wines and liqueurs, or were crushed and layered in trifles or with syllabubs and creams.

"Orange blossom water and rosewater, both made by steeping the flower blossoms in brandy or distilled water, were characteristic flavourings for this biscuit (cookie).

"Musk, another popular

flavouring, is an aromatic substance produced by the male musk-deer. It is still an important ingredient in perfumery, but is no longer considered edible.

"By the mid-19th century, vanilla had displaced these flavourings."

Historic recipe

1. Take a pound of almonds, let them be scalded, blanched, and thrown into cold water, then dry them in a cloth, and pound them in a mortar, moisten them with orange-flower water, or with the white of an egg, lest they turn to oil; afterwards, take an equal quantity of fine powder sugar, with three or four whites of eggs, and a little musk, beat all well together,

Cookbook of the Week

Travel back in time to update classics



Toronto's Fort York is steeped in history but often overlooked is the food element of the times.

Edited by Elizabeth Baird and Bridget Wranich, Setting a Fine Table is a selection of recipes from Fort York.

The dishes, from the officers' kitchen in the Fort, take readers back to a time when food was not only made locally, but found locally — off the land.

The 30 recipes include the original, historic recipe as well as its modern equivalent.

METRO



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Winter can be snow much fun

JASON
MENARD
For Metro

Keep kids busy during the holidays with some of the following activities.

Skating: Most cities have one or more public outdoor rinks. There is nothing like the experience of skating outside and it's a great way to spend some quality time with your children. If the weather isn't co-operating, most rinks also offer public skating opportunities.

Snow fort/snowball fights: If the snow is the right type and there's enough of it, why not head out to the park or your backyard and introduce your kids to the joys of building (and defending) a snow fort. And if you get too tired, feel free to lie down and make snow angels.

Tobogganing: Whether you prefer the traditional wooden sleds, have invested in one of those high-tech versions, or are willing to throw

caution to the wind with those crazy carpets, all you need to do is head off to the nearest hill and throw yourself down it.

Winter sports: We often think about hockey, but there are many other winter sports you may want to attend as a spectator. From basketball to roller derby, there is usually a game somewhere.

Make a bird feeder: You can buy one at the store or make one out of a pine cone. But however you do it, those hungry birds will appreciate it.

Attend a winter carnival: Most communities have some sort of event during the winter. Get together with neighbours, take the kids, and make an annual event of it.

But no matter what you do, don't forget to spend a few minutes afterwards recapping the event and spending some quality time with your kid or kids bonding over a cup of hot chocolate.



Tobogganing can be a fun family bonding experience during the holidays. CATHERINE YEULET/ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK



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Happy trails

Get on your sled and ride. There is nothing quite like the feeling of riding on fresh powder

**SHELDON
BIRNIE**
For Metro

With winter setting in for the long haul, many find themselves cursing the daily weather reports. But for some hardy people, the prospect of cold temperatures and a nice dump of fresh powder just gets the blood racing.

These resilient people are snowmobilers and they are a diehard breed of outdoor enthusiasts whose numbers are legion, and growing with every winter that passes. Whether grooming the trails for other riders, accessing hidden hunting or ice fishing spots, or purely for the thrill of it, snowmobilers are making tracks as soon as conditions permit.

"Everybody has their own reasons, but the trails are nice to ride," said Jay Ruchotzky, vice-president of

the Ashern Snowmobile Club north of Winnipeg, who has been snowmobiling since he was a child. "My dad took me out when I was little. I had my own sled by the time I was 14 or 16."

As an active member, Ruchotzky maintains trails for the members of his club, as well as those who use the trails on a drop-in basis. His love of snowmobiling is readily apparent when asked about what keeps him coming back, year after year.

"It's a feeling of freedom," he said. "You can't really beat riding a smooth trail through the bush, with the snow coming down."

"I've always loved winter," said Chris Brewer, president of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, who maintain more than 10,000 kilometres of trail throughout the province. Brewer and his wife make active use of



Whether grooming trails for other riders, or purely for the thrill of it, snowmobilers are making tracks as soon as conditions permit. BIKERIDERLONDON/SHUTTERSTOCK

the trail system and the backcountry as soon as there is enough snow.

Josh Kovnats is another self-described "diehard sledneck" from a family of dedicated snowmobilers whose passion for sledding can't be contained.

"I go every opportunity I can," said Kovnats, whose family has a longtime membership with the Interlake

Snow Trackers. "It's a different experience every time. I like to play in large amounts of fresh powder and go fast, and I love the ability to explore this land fully."

Brock Gibson is another lifelong snowmobiler, who grew up snowmobiling in western Manitoba.

"It's a good excuse to get bundled up, go outside and get some fresh air," he said.

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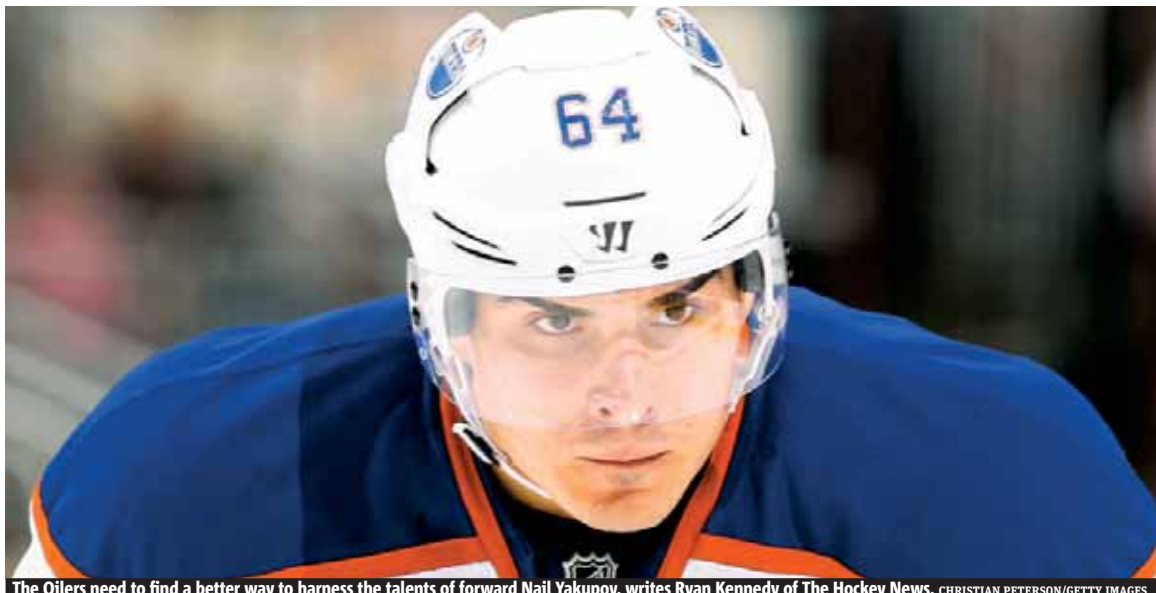
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Saturday:	9am - 5pm



The Oilers need to find a better way to harness the talents of forward Nail Yakupov, writes Ryan Kennedy of The Hockey News. CHRISTIAN PETERSON/GETTY IMAGES

Oilers' attack could use more of the Yak

NHL. Russian forward has struggled with the media but is finding his groove on the ice



THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ryan Kennedy
edmonton@metronews.ca

The first time I interviewed Nail Yakupov, he was a rookie with the Ontario Hockey League's Sarnia Sting. Fresh over from Russia, he didn't speak a lot of English, but he did his best to try.

In fact, he waved off teammate Alex Galchenyuk on sev-

eral occasions when it came to translating, determined to answer for himself. This often resulted in Galchenyuk breaking into laughter at his well-intentioned buddy. But it was good for "Yak" to have someone to lean on.

At the world juniors last year in Russia, Yakupov took a lot of heat from Canadian reporters when he wasn't made available after games for interviews. An early misinterpreted comment about "dirty" Canadians (which I always took to mean "gritty") may have played a part. According to Yakupov, it was a coach's decision and that his position as captain of the team didn't necessarily make him spokesman at that level. On the ice, teammate Mikhail Grigorenko

was much more dangerous, but Yakupov still helped his squad win bronze on home ice over the rival Canucks.

Which takes me to Tuesday's overtime win over Carolina. Yakupov had two points, forging nice chemistry with another No. 1 overall pick, Taylor Hall. Jordan Eberle and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins — the other two members of Edmonton's Young Four Horsemen — also had two points each.

Yakupov has taken a lot of heat this season, but now that he's out of the spotlight and put in a position to help, you can see the glimmers of hope. This is a young man who doesn't necessarily thrive as The Man. I've seen him pressured by Edmonton journalists and he doesn't

react well. But let him relax and he reveals a great personality complete with fun quotes.

The key for coach Dallas Eakins is going to be figuring out how best to deploy Yakupov. He's an excellent secondary threat, but needs to play with talent to be effective. Defence is still a work in progress, though Ralph Krueger saw the kid as willing to learn when he helmed the Oilers last season.

You may say that a No. 1 overall pick should be someone who thrives under pressure, who wants the limelight. But wouldn't you rather have a scorer who gets into a comfort zone and perhaps grows into that role? Just 20 years old, Yakupov is at least owed that by the fans and his organization.

NHL

Senators' Cowen given 2-game ban

The NHL has suspended Senators defenceman Jared Cowen two games for a head shot on Zemgus Girgensons of the Sabres.

Cowen struck Girgensons in the head late in the third period of Ottawa's game in Buffalo on Tuesday night. No penalty was called on the play.

Girgensons was not injured and later scored the shootout winner for the Sabres. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

MLB

Hits no longer welcome at home

Major League Baseball plans to eliminate home-plate collisions.

New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson, chairman of the rules committee, made the announcement Wednesday at the winter meetings. He said player health and increased awareness of concussions were behind the decision. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

MLB

Davis goes from Jays to Tigers

Outfielder Rajai Davis and the Detroit Tigers have agreed to terms on a two-year contract worth \$9-10 million US.

The Tigers announced the deal Wednesday.

The 33-year-old Davis spent the last three seasons with Toronto and hit .260 this year with six homers, 24 RBIs and 45 steals in 331 at-bats. He made \$2.5 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dumba hopes 3rd time's a charm for WJC



Mathew Dumba, seen here in an exhibition game last August, narrowly missed a spot on the last two Canadian world junior squads. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Mathew Dumba was cleared to join Canada's world junior championship team in Toronto on Wednesday, and the squad is optimistic that star forward Jonathan Drouin will recover from a concussion in time to play in the tournament.

The 25 invited players are to arrive on Thursday for a three-day camp before heading to Sweden for final preparations. The championship begins Dec. 26 in Malmö, Sweden.

Dumba, who was among

the final cuts the last two years, is expected to play a big role on defence for a Canadian team looking to end a four-year gold-medal drought.

The Minnesota Wild, who kept the six-foot, 183-pound Dumba out of training camp but used him in only 13 games, finally opted to assign him to the Canadian junior team.

"It's been tough on me the last two times," Dumba told the NHL club's website. "Being the last cut last year, it hurt."

"It sucked not being able

to represent my country last year, so I'm looking forward to the opportunity that they're giving me this year. It's going to be a good experience for me to play at my age group."

It remains to be seen if the Wild will take him back after the tournament or send him back to junior. On Tuesday, the Red Deer Rebels of the Western Hockey League traded his junior rights to the powerhouse Portland Winterhawks for forward Presten Koepke and three draft picks. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHL moves back to survival of richest

Salary cap. New TV rights deal widens class gulf between big- and small-market teams

The implementation of the salary cap in the NHL was supposed to help what's commonly referred to as competitive balance.

In other words, allowing the small-market teams to swim in the same pool with the big-money ones. Rein in spending with the hope that parity keeps things interesting.

But what happens when the cap rises so quickly that the Florida Panthers and Nashville Predators of the league can't keep up? The projected upper limit of \$71 million US — and the floor between \$52 and \$53 million — for next season isn't crazy, but the lucrative Canadian-rights TV deal could lead to sharp increases in the coming years.

NHL

Knee injury forces Howard out

Detroit Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard suffered a knee injury in practice on Wednesday.

That led to the Red Wings recalling Petr Mrazek from the AHL's Grand Rapids Griffins and putting forward Henrik Zetterberg on long-term injured reserve. The Red Wings have ruled Howard out for Thursday night's game at Tampa Bay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dollars and sense

"I don't think anyone is against paying for success but you have to be able to afford it first."

New Jersey Devils GM Lou Lamoriello, reacting to the NHL's rising salary cap

The NHL's past two work stoppages tried to level that out, but for the foreseeable future it's up to the small-market teams to take on the challenge as the cap could surge well past \$80 million.

"We've got to move with everybody else," Predators general manager David Poile said. "There's a lot of components in the way this whole thing's been put together. There's revenue sharing for teams like ourselves that it always works out."

Revenue sharing is expected to help, along with a new way to calculate the cap and floor: determine the midpoint and go 15 per cent up and 15 per cent

down. In theory, that should keep the disparity from getting out of control.

But if the \$5.2-billion, 12-year agreement with Rogers inflates revenues as much as it should and business continues to boom, the floor will soon be higher than the cap at its highest under the last collective bargaining agreement. That's a difficult spot for teams with fixed budgets.

Poile was right to point to revenue sharing as a way to assist teams that don't make money hand over glove like the Toronto Maple Leafs and Montreal Canadiens, but Dallas Stars GM Jim Nill still has questions.

"Every business, every team has to sit back and look at their business model now and see where it fits in, where does the revenue sharing fit in? How does that come into the model? That's a new entity too now," Nill said. "That changed in the new CBA. We'll all sit back and analyze it and go from there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Kings win fifth straight at Leafs' expense

Jeff Carter scored midway through the third period as the Los Angeles Kings beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-1 for their fifth straight win Wednesday.

Drew Doughty and Kyle Clifford, with an insurance goal with 1:59 remaining, also scored for Los Angeles (21-7-4) before 19,375 at the Air Canada Centre.

Cody Franson scored for Toronto (16-13-3).

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Leafs' Mason Raymond, right, battles the Kings' Slava Voynov on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

RG3 rides the pine in Washington

Washington coach Mike Shanahan announced Wednesday he is benching star quarterback Robert Griffin III for the rest of the season.

The Redskins (3-10) say they made the move in an effort to keep RG3 healthy for the off-season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Injury sidelines Vikings' Peterson

Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson has shed the walking boot on his sprained right foot, but he wasn't ready for practice Wednesday.

Peterson is uncertain for the Viking's game against Philadelphia on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Rivers stings C's in return to Boston

Jamal Crawford hit a pair of three-pointers 23 seconds apart to help the Clippers pull away in the last three minutes and former Celtics coach Doc Rivers won his first game back in Boston when Los Angeles beat the Celtics 96-88 Wednesday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	31	21	8	2	86	62	44
Montreal	32	19	10	3	85	71	41
Detroit	32	15	9	8	87	85	38
Tampa Bay	30	17	10	3	85	76	37
Toronto	32	16	13	3	87	90	35
Ottawa	32	12	14	6	92	105	30
Florida	32	10	17	5	73	106	25
Buffalo	31	7	22	2	53	92	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	32	13	13	6	75	91	32
NY Rangers	32	15	16	1	70	84	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
Columbus	31	13	15	3	78	86	29
Philadelphia	31	13	15	3	70	85	29
NY Islanders	32	9	18	5	80	111	23

Wednesday's results

Los Angeles 3 Toronto 1
Chicago 7 Philadelphia 2
Minnesota at Anaheim

Tuesday's results

Los Angeles 6 Montreal 0
Washington 6 Tampa Bay 5 (SO)
Buffalo 2 Ottawa 1 (SO)
Columbus 5 New Jersey 4
Nashville 4 NY Rangers 1
Florida 3 Detroit 2 (SO)
St. Louis 2 Winnipeg 1
Chicago 6 Dallas 2
Phoenix 3 Colorado 1
Boston 2 Calgary 1
Edmonton 5 Carolina 4 (OT)
NY Islanders 3 San Jose 2 (SO)

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	16	27	43
Kane, Chi	17	23	40
Malkin, Pgh	8	30	38
Getzlaf, Ana	16	21	37
Tavares, NYI	12	24	36
Ovechkin, Wash	26	9	35
Perry, Ana	20	15	35
Steen, STL	21	12	33
Backstrom, Wash	7	25	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	34	23	6	5	129	93	51
St. Louis	29	20	6	3	100	67	43
Minnesota	32	18	9	5	77	75	41
Colorado	29	20	9	0	83	68	40
Dallas	29	14	10	5	83	86	33
Winnipeg	32	14	14	4	83	90	32
Nashville	31	14	14	3	71	89	31

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	33	21	7	5	106	86	47
Los Angeles	32	21	7	4	88	63	46
San Jose	31	19	6	6	103	78	44
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	30	17	8	5	97	94	39
Calgary	30	11	15	4	79	100	26
Edmonton	32	11	18	3	89	109	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's games — All Times Eastern

Montreal at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Columbus at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Calgary, 9 p.m.
NY Islanders at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Boston at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's games

New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Thornton, SJ	5	27	32
Kunitz, Pgh	17	14	31
Marleau, SJ	14	16	30
St. Louis, TBL	13	17	30
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Couture, SJ	10	20	30
Kessel, Tor	16	13	29
Sharp, Chi	14	15	29
Karlsson, Ott	8	21	29
H. Sedin, Vcr	8	21	29

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	14	.417	10
Charlotte	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Detroit	10	13	.435	9 1/2
Chicago	8	12	.400	10
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10 1/2
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	11 1/2
Orlando	7	15	.318	12
Philadelphia	7	16	.304	12 1/2
New York	6	15	.286	12 1/2
Milwaukee	5	17	.227	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	1/2
d-San Antonio	17	4	.810	1/2
d-L.A. Clippers	15	8	.652	3 1/2
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4 1/2
Dallas	13	9	.591	5
Phoenix	12	9	.571	5 1/2
Golden State	12	10	.545	6
Minnesota	11	11	.500	7
New Orleans	10	10	.500	7
Memphis	10	11	.476	7 1/2
L.A. Lakers	10	11	.476	7 1/2
Sacramento	6	13	.316	10 1/2
Utah	4	19	.174	14 1/2

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.

Wednesday's results

Orlando 92 Charlotte 83
L.A. Clippers 96 Boston 88
San Antonio 109 Milwaukee 77
New Orleans 111 Detroit 106 OT
Minnesota 106 Philadelphia 99
New York 83 Chicago 78
Oklahoma City 116 Memphis 100
Utah at Sacramento
Dallas at Golden State

Tuesday's results

San Antonio 116 Toronto 103
Cleveland 109 New York 94
Indiana 90 Miami 84
Minnesota 121 Detroit 94
Oklahoma City 101 Atlanta 92
Brooklyn 104 Boston 96
Milwaukee 78 Chicago 74
Phoenix 114 L.A. Lakers 108
Thursday's games
L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn, 8 p.m.
Houston at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You may think you have to tear everything down and start from scratch but it's not necessary. There is precious little wrong with your life and a few minor changes here and there is all that is required.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

It may at times seem as if you are not making much progress but in a matter of days there will be clear signs that you are on the verge of a major breakthrough.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Your thoughts seem to be a bit heavy and there are certainly one or two areas where you need to get serious. But don't get so serious that all the fun goes out of your life.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

It may be true that someone is saying awkward things about you but there is no reason to get paranoid and start thinking everyone is against you. Whatever you've done, you are still most people's number one.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

It may be hard for you to understand why certain people act in certain ways but there is no point getting worked up about it because you won't change the way they are. Try acting as if you don't care what they do.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you have started on a scheme then you must see it through to the end. Having invested so much time and energy, you cannot give up on it now. Besides, it could work out.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

At some stage today you will realize that you are not going to get far with a joint project, thanks to people dragging their feet. You will, though, make progress in areas where you can work on your own.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

When you get annoyed, you go to extremes and an unfortunate person is going to be in your bad books today. Yes, maybe you will be too hard on them, but it will be a long time before they dare to upset you.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Don't take anything too seriously today because if you do, you may get depressed and start wondering why you bother to make an effort. Snap out of it by focusing on things that make you smile.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You want to help someone who is struggling but you know if you do they will struggle more in the future. They need to learn from their mistakes, painful though that may be.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You will have to work twice as hard to catch up on things you should have done yesterday. If you apply yourself, you may get ahead — and get a reward for your efforts tomorrow.

Pisces

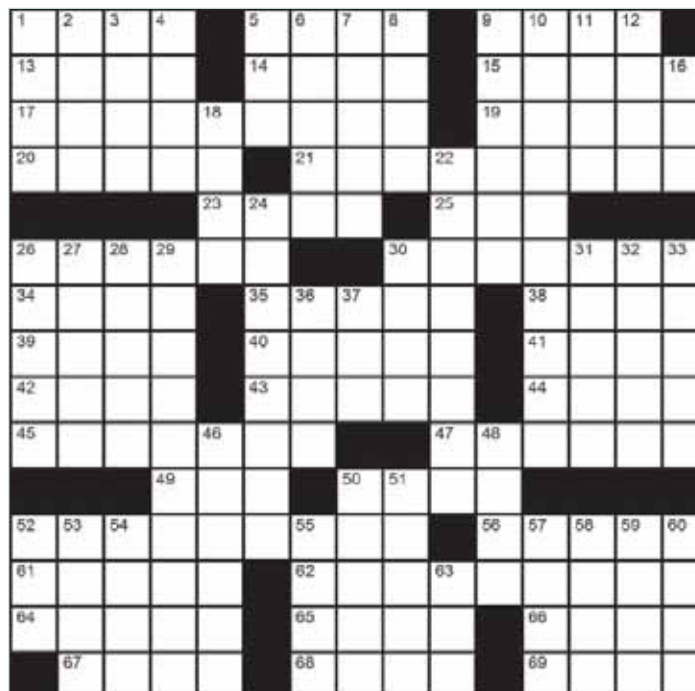
Feb. 20 - March 20

Are you making the most of your time? Chances are you have allowed hours, days, even weeks to slip by without doing anything special. That must now change. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Prima donna
5. Cloak: Spanish
9. 2s
13. Plow pullers
14. Caesar's 955
15. Steal a stash, again
17. Nickname of Manitoba's capital city
19. SNL alum Cheri
20. Rock bottom
21. The Band concert film directed by Martin Scorsese, "The _____" (1978)
23. UK awards since 1917
25. "For _____ a jolly good..."
26. Daniel Defoe's 1719 book, Robinson _____
30. More like cow juice
34. From-clothes fluff
35. Sitar songs
38. Family suffix in zoology
39. Hodgepodge
40. Get a glass of water to get cold really fast: 2 wds.
41. Telegram
42. Hireling
43. "_____ go on?"
44. Like some airports [abbr.]
45. Working together well
47. Tropical fruits
49. Montreal's 'me'



50. Shoe part
52. 1880 Dostoevsky novel, The Brothers _____
56. Overbearing
61. "_____ Teenage Werewolf" (1957)
62. Jets competition, when in Colorado
64. Type of mil. mission

65. Surrealist painter, _____ Magritte (b.1898 - d.1967)
66. Helix
67. _____ stretch of the imagination
68. Too
69. And others [abbr.]: 2 wds.

2. Corn lily
3. Peddle
4. _____ gravity
5. "Green River" gr.
6. Plentiful
7. Impassionate requests
8. Norms, for short
9. Plaster-spreading tool
10. Alberta city south

- of Edmonton
11. Great pitcher Mr. Hershisser
12. Separate, as laundry
16. Commerce, curtly
18. Fun suffix to 'Switch'
22. 1983 Bryan Adams single: 2 wds.
24. Prehistoric land of

- The Arctic
26. Horse-on-cobblestone sounds
27. Amber _____, "Dancing with the Stars" reigning champion
28. Employees organization
29. Profession of 2nd Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie
30. _____ of-honour
31. Picking from a police lineup
32. Keep one's _____ the ground
33. Movie studio stocks
36. _____ Deucey (Backgammon variant)
37. "Golly!"
46. Comedian/actor Ray
48. Duchess of _____ (Subject of Spanish painter Goya)
50. Shack
51. Singer, Faith _____
52. Wine aperitif
53. Caught in _____ of lies
54. Daring
55. _____ Phillips (Queen Elizabeth's granddaughter who is an Olympic equestrian)
57. _____ and for all
58. William Wallace, for example
59. Mr. LaBeauf
60. Scream
63. Sean Penn's director father

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY

MAX: -15°
MIN: -16°

FRIDAY

MAX: -18°
MIN: -20°

SATURDAY

MAX: -16°
MIN: -22°



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